



**U.S. Department of Justice
Federal**

Bureau of Prisons

Central Office
320 First St., NW
Washington, DC 20534

February 13, 2019

CJ Ciaramella
MuckRock.com
MuckRock News DEPT MR 60034
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Dear CJ Ciaramella:

Due to a lapse in appropriations, the vast majority of BOP FOIA staff, including all staff who receive and conduct the initial review of FOIA requests, were furloughed between December 23, 2018 and January 26, 2019. Our immediate priority is to open and properly acknowledge each of the hundreds of FOIA requests received during the furlough and thereafter. While we will also continue to process requests, we anticipate it will take longer than normal to process them as a direct result of the furlough. We appreciate your understanding.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) received your Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act (FOIA/PA) request. Your request has been assigned a number and forwarded to the processing office noted below. Please make a note of the request number and processing office as you will need to include it in any correspondence or inquiry regarding your request. A copy of the first page of your request is attached to help you more easily keep track of your request.

FOIA/PA Request Number: 2019-02188
Processing Office: CO

The time needed to complete our processing of your request depends on the complexity of our records search and the volume and complexity of any records located. Each request is assigned to one of three tracks: simple, complex, or expedited. Due to the large number of FOIA/PA requests received by BOP and the limited resources available to process such requests, BOP handles each request on a first-in, first-out basis in relation to other requests in the same track. Your request was assigned to the complex track and placed in chronological order based on the date of receipt.

We determined unusual circumstances exist as the documents responsive to your request must be searched for and collected from a field office, and/or the documents responsive to your request are expected to be voluminous and will require significant time to review. Because of these unusual circumstances, we are extending the time limit to respond to your request for the ten additional days provided by the statute.

Processing complex requests may take up to nine months. Pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(b) and (c), you may narrow or modify your request in an effort to reduce the

processing time.

Pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 16.10, in certain circumstances we are required to charge fees for time spent searching for or duplicating responsive documents. If we anticipate your fees will be in excess of \$25.00 or the amount you have indicated you are willing to pay, we will notify you of the estimated amount. At that time, you will have the option to reformulate your request to reduce the fees. If you requested a fee waiver, we will make a decision whether to grant your request after we determine whether fees will be assessed for this request.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss reformulation or an alternative time frame for the processing of your request, please feel free to contact the CO at or the Federal Bureau of Prisons' (BOP) FOIA Public Liaison, Mr. C. Darnell Stroble at 202-616-7750, 320 First Street NW, Suite 936, Washington DC 20534, or ogc_efoia@bop.gov. You can also check the status of your request on line at <http://www.bop.gov/PublicInfo/execute/foia>.

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information, Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Sincerely,

K. Scarantino, for
Ronald Rodgers, Senior Counsel